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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In Re Application of:

Applicants: : Thomas J. Perkowski  
Serial No. : 08/871,815  
Filing Date : June 9, 1997  
Title of Invention : SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FINDING AND  
SERVING CONSUMER PRODUCT RELATED  
INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS USING  
INTERNET-BASED INFORMATION SERVERS  
AND CLIENTS  
Examiner : Stephen Tkacs  
Group Art Unit : 2761  
Attorney Docket No. : 100-006USA000

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97, 1.98 and 1.99**

Sir:

In order to fulfill Applicant's continuing obligation of candor and good faith as set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.56, Applicant submits herewith an Information Disclosure Statement prepared in accordance with 37 C.F.R Sections 1.97, 1.98 and 1.99.

The disclosure enclosed herewith are as follows:

**U.S. PUBLICATIONS**

| <u>NUMBER</u>  | <u>FILING DATE</u>     | <u>TITLE</u>  |
|----------------|------------------------|---|
| 5,612,527      | March 31, 1995         | DISCOUNT OFFER REDEMPTION<br>SYSTEM AND METHOD  |
| 5,640,193      | August 15, 1994        | MULTIMEDIA SERVICE ACCESS BY<br>READING MARKS ON AN OBJECT  |
| 5,715,444      | October 14, 1994       | METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR<br>EXECUTING A GUIDED PARAMETRIC<br>SEARCH.                                 |
| 5,592,378      | August 19, 1994        | COMPUTERIZED ORDER ENTRY<br>SYSTEM AND METHOD.  |
| 5,635,694      | September 8, 1998      | SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR<br>EMBEDDING MACHINE CODED<br>DESTINATION INFORMATION INTO A<br>POSTAL MARK |
| 00500081812346 | 08871815 July 15, 1991 | BAR CODE USE IN INFORMATION,<br>TRANSACTIONAL AND OTHER<br>SYSTEM AND SERVICE APPLICATIONS        |

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|------------|------------------|---|
| 08/691,263 | August 2, 1996   | HAND-HELD OPTICAL READER<br>TERMINAL WITH ERGONOMIC<br>DESIGN |
| 4,654,482  | November 7, 1984 | HOME MERCHANDISE ORDERING<br>TELECOMMUNICATIONS TERMINAL      |

#### FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

| <u>NUMBER</u>   | <u>PUBLICATION DATE</u> | <u>TITLE</u>   |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--|
| WO 98/09243     | March 5, 1998           | SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING EASY<br>ACCESS TO THE WORLD WIDE WEB  |
| WO 98/06055     | February 12, 1998       | APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR<br>OBTAINING INFORMATION FROM A<br>COMPUTER NETWORK USING A<br>SCANNER AND BROWSER    |
| WO 97/01137     | January 9, 1997         | SYSTEM FOR USING ARTICLE OF<br>COMMERCE TO ACCESS REMOTE<br>COMPUTER   |
| WO 97/38389     | October 16, 1997        | A PROXY-SERVER SYSTEM FOR<br>ENHANCING FUNCTIONALITY OF<br>COMPUTERS ACCESSING SERVERS ON<br>THE INTERNET      |
| WO 98/20411     | May 14, 1998            | AUTOMATIC ACCESS OF ELECTRONIC<br>INFORMATION THROUGH MACHINE-<br>READABLE CODES ON PRINTED<br>DOCUMENTS       |
| EP 0 744 856 A2 | November 27, 1996       | APPARATUS FOR AND METHOD OF<br>UTILIZING PRODUCT IDENTIFIER<br>CODES TO ESTABLISH<br>COMMUNICATION CONNECTIONS |
| EP 0 837 406 A2 | April 22, 1998          | DATA RETRIEVAL SYSTEM AND<br>METHOD  |

#### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORTS

| <u>Number</u>  | <u>Filing Date</u> |
|----------------|--------------------|
| PCT/US97/19227 | October 27, 1997   |

### STATEMENT OF PERTINENCE

US Patent No. 5,612,527 to Ovadia discloses a system for redeeming bar coded discount offer flyers by reading a bar coded consumer identification card provided to the consumer, and then reading the bar coded discount offer flyer in order to redeem the offer and track the consumer purchasing habits.

US Patent No. 5,640,193 to Wellner discloses a system and method for accessing multi-media information resources stored in information servers in an information network. The network address of a particular information resource is encoded within the structure of a bar code symbol placed on an object or article associated therewith, which is related to the particular information resource in some manner. When the bar code symbol is read using a bar code symbol reader connected to client terminal, the recovered network address is used to access the information resource from the network and displayed the same for the use and enjoyment of the user.

US Patent No. 5,715,444 to Danish et al. discloses a system and method for searching a product information database using guided parametric searching techniques.

US Patent No. 5,592,378 to Cameron et al. discloses a client-server type information network which enables a customer using a client machine to (i) search a database server for information about products offered for sale, as well as (ii) place an order to purchase a particular product.

US Patent No. 5,635,694 to Tuhro presents a system and method which embeds a postal code in a postal mark. The system includes a scanner to input a destination zip code for a piece of mail and a control unit, connected to the scanner, to convert the destination zip code to zip code glyphs and to embed the zip code glyphs into a predetermined portion of a bit map representing the postal mark.

US Patent No. 5,288,976 to Citron et al. discloses the use of a bar code reader connected to a telephone network, in order to read bar codes that have instructions and commands encoded therein relating to particular kinds of action to be taken (e.g. dial action).

While not a prior art reference to the invention claimed in the present Application, but made publicly available by Symbol Technologies Industries in the European Patent Office by virtue of claims to priority made in EP 0 837 406 A2, Applicant cites this reference as it discloses at lines 30-34 of Page 50 in US Application No. 08/691,263 that "using this new system, any computer system equipped with a general purpose interface reader application (Browser 300) can create an interface 'on the fly' that is capable of reading processing information on the accompanying data record labels." This interface reader application, termed "Browser" in Application No. 08/691,263 and indicated by reference number 300 in Fig. 18, is shown therein as comprising: a bar code acquisition engine 304; a parsing engine 305; a printing engine 306 with a printed data interface 307; and a communications engine 308 with a communications input/output interface 309.

U.S. Patent No. 4,654,482 to DeAngelis discloses a telecommunications terminal that employs a bar code symbol reading wand for use in ordering merchandise in a catalog by reading bar code symbols printed therein.

While International Patent No. WO 98/09243 is not a prior art reference to the invention claimed in the present application, Applicant cites this reference

as it discloses the use of four-digit jump codes which can be used to access the URL of a desired web site stored in a database. When the user is on line with the special web site, entering in the four digit jump code automatically links the user to the Web site (corresponding to the jump code) to the JumpCity Web site, thus providing immediate access to the desired Web site for the user, without inputting the URL or address of the Web site.

While International Publication No. WO 98/06055 is not a prior art reference to the invention claimed in the present application, Applicant cites this reference as it discloses, in Fig. 2e and at lines 1-5 of Page 8, using a connector 221 to connect a bar code scanner device 219 to the I/O port 220a of a portable digital assistant (PDA) containing an Internet browser 106 and decoder software 115, so that an operator can scan an URL-encoded bar code and automatically address a Web page specified thereby. As disclosed, the PDA 220 is connected to the Internet and/or intranet computer network via a wireless connection 218.

While International Patent No. WO 97/01137 is not a prior art reference to the invention claimed in the present application, Applicant cites this reference as it discloses using a conventional bar code symbol reader 44 to read a UPC label 48 on product which, in turn, is used to access a corresponding URL in database 60 for accessing a HTML-encoded document on the WWW by providing the accessed URL to a client computer 28 having an Internet browser program.

While International Patent No. WO 97/38389 is not a prior art reference to the invention claimed in the present application, Applicant cites this reference as it discloses a hand-held computer 13 having an Internet browser, display panel and keyboard, for accessing HTML-encoded document by manually entering corresponding URLs into the Internet browser in a conventional manner.

While International Patent No. WO 98/20411 is not a prior art reference to the invention claimed in the present application, Applicant cites this reference as it discloses using an integrated "mouse-type" bar code scanner 34, as disclosed in US Patent No. 5,448,050, in order to read a URL encoded bar code symbol, provide the symbol character data thereof to a client computer 32 running an Internet browser program, as shown in Fig. 1, and thus access an information resource located at the specified URL.

While International Patent Application Publication No. EP 0 744 856 A2 is not a prior art reference to the invention claimed in the present application, Applicant cites this reference as it discloses using a conventional bar code symbol reader 112 to read a UPC label 112 on product which, in turn, is used to access a corresponding network address in database 141 for accessing an information service 150 on a communication network (e.g. PTSN or WWW) by using the accessed network address to establish a communication connection between the user's computer terminal 120 and the multi-media information service 150.

While EP 0 837 406 A2 is not a prior art reference to the claimed invention, this document, like corresponding US Application No. 08/691,263, discloses that by "using this new system, any computer system equipped with a general purpose interface reader application (Browser 300) can create an interface 'on the fly' that is capable of reading processing information on the accompanying data record labels." Also, as disclosed therein, the interface reader application, termed "Browser" in Application No. 08/691,263 and indicated by reference number 300 in Fig. 18, is shown therein as comprising: a bar code acquisition engine 304; a parsing engine 305; a printing engine 306 with a printed data interface 307; and a communications engine 308 with a

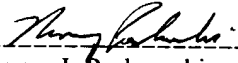
communications input/output interface 309.

A separate listing of the above references on PTO Form 1449 and a copy of these references are enclosed herewith for the convenience of the Examiner.

The Commissioner is also hereby authorized to charge the requisite filing fee of \$240.00 as well as any other fee deficiencies or credits any to Deposit Account No. 16-1340. A copy of this document is enclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 14, 1999

  
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